

PETITION -- HOUSE

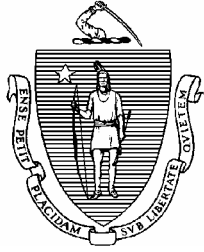
CHIEF SPONSOR:

Representative Jones of North Reading

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
in General Court assembled.*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill or resolve.

PETITIONERS: LEGISLATOR/CITIZEN	DISTRICT/FULL MAILING ADDRESS
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex
Mary S. Rogeness	2nd Hampden
George N. Peterson, Jr.	9th Worcester
John A. Lepper	2nd Bristol
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	1st Plymouth
Elizabeth A. Poirier	14th Bristol
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	4th Hampden
Susan W. Pope	13th Middlesex
Bradford Hill	4th Essex
James E. Vallee	10th Norfolk
Scott P. Brown	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex
Jennifer L. Flanagan	4 th Worcester
Richard R. Tisei	Middlesex and Essex
Paul J.P. Loscocco	8 th Middlesex
Shirley Gomes	4 th Barnstable
Michael J. Coppola	1 st Bristol
Bruce E. Tarr	Essex & Middlesex
Todd M. Smola	1 st Hampden
Stephen M. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin
Richard J. Ross	9 th Norfolk
Thomas J. O'Brien	12 th Plymouth
Stephen P. LeDuc	4 th Middlesex



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND FIVE

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY THE MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. As used in this act, the following words shall have the following meanings:-

“Multi-use trail”, any trail in the commonwealth managed and/or owned by state, regional, local or private authorities where general public access is granted, and no restrictions of use have limited access to a single type of travel;

“Markers”, signs or notices used to inform, guide or restrict;

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or of any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, there is hereby established a special commission to be known as the multi-use trail commission which shall consist of following members: 6 members to be appointed by the governor; the secretary of the executive office of environmental affairs, or his designee; the commissioner of the department of conservation and recreation, or his designee; one member from the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts; one member from the Appalachian Mountain Club; one member from the New England Mountain Bike Association; one member from the Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc.; the house and senate chairmen of

the committees on local affairs, or their designees; the house and senate chairmen of the joint committee on natural resources and agriculture, or their designees; one member appointed by the minority leader in the house of representatives; one member appointed by the minority leader in the senate.

SECTION 3. The commission may adopt such rules and establish such procedures as it considers necessary for the conduct of its business, including the designation of a chairperson. No action shall be taken unless approved by a majority of its members. The multi-use trail commission charged with conducting a study and making recommendations regarding the continuing and expanding use of multi-use trails in the Commonwealth. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Information regarding the current, anticipated and potential utilization of multi-use trails owned and managed by state, regional and local authorities;
- (2) A profile of current, anticipated and potential users of multi-use trails;
- (3) Cataloguing of all the multi-use trails in the commonwealth;
- (4) Current and potential user conflicts;
- (5) Other state's multi-use trail use policies;
- (6) The bureau of land management multi-use trail policies;
- (7) Environmental impacts of various trail users and methods to mitigate any adverse impact; and
- (8) Trail markers used throughout the commonwealth and country.

SECTION 4. A report on the results of the study shall be submitted to the secretary of state and the house and senate clerks, not later than one year following the effective date hereof. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following recommendations:

- (1) Actions to protect multi-use trail resources;
- (2) To promote safety for all multi-use trail users;
- (3) To minimize conflicts of multi-use trail users;
- (4) To land managers for multi-use trail management;
- (5) On a unified information system to distribute state-wide multi-use trail user information;
- (6) On a unified statewide trail marking system; and
- (7) Which identifies a future date at which this report shall be reexamined and compared to the current state of multi-use trails.